

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached substitute sheets correct the deficiencies noted in the Office Action. “Prior Art” has been added to Figure 1. In Figure 1, previously omitted reference number 22 has been added. In Figure 2, previously omitted reference numbers 31 and 36 have been added. In Figure 3, previously omitted reference number 36 has been added. In Figure 4, previously omitted reference number s 26 and 36 have been added.

REMARKS

In response to the Office action mailed March 9, 2005, applicants request entry of the foregoing amendments, consideration of the following remarks and reconsideration of the rejections set forth in said office action.

Restriction under 35 USC 121 to either Group I, claims 1-2 and 4-7 or Group II, claim 3 was required. Applicants hereby confirm the provisional election of the claims of group I, claims 1-2 and 4-7 without traverse.

Substitute Figures 1-5 are submitted herewith in the Appendix.

The objections to the specification have been corrected in the substitute specification attached hereto in the Appendix. No new matter has been added in the amendments made to the specification.

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claim 5 has been amended. Applicants submit that as amended, claim 5 particularly points out and distinctly claims the subject matter applicants regard as their invention.

Claims 1,2 and 4-7 were rejected under 35 USC 102 (b) as being anticipate by Peek (US 4,962,721), hereinafter Peek '721. Applicants submit that as amended claims 1, 2 and 4-7 are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by Peek '721.

Peek '721 discloses an apparatus for coating a container with a liquid in which an applicator pad is oriented such that it contacts a rotating bottle as it passed through the apparatus. The applicator pad is "mounted" in a support means 17 with an impervious cladding 32 between the back surface of the pad and the support. The impervious cladding 32 is only oriented between the support means 17 and the pad 16. The impervious cladding is provided to prevent blowout of the liquid from the pad. The applicator pad disclosed by Peek '721 does not include any means for limiting discharge of the coating liquid to only the surface or surfaces of the pad that actually contact the bottle. In fact, the embodiments disclosed by Peek '721 specifically allows for an open "bottom surface" of the pad (see Figure 2) where liquid could discharge from the pad. In an alternative embodiment, Peek '721 specifically provides for the "unsealed bottom" of the pad to discharge liquid (see Figure 3).

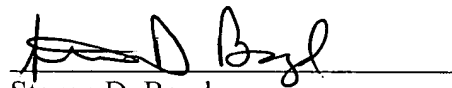
Applicants submit that Peek '721 fails to anticipate a bottle coating apparatus employing a contact transfer sponge in which all surfaces of the sponge except for that surface that will contact the moving bottle are sealed to prevent discharge of liquid. The present invention provides for a sponge contact transfer of liquid to a moving bottle in which the discharge of liquid is limited to only that

surface which will contact the bottle. The present invention provides for a "cleaner" operation of the apparatus with reduced waste of the coating liquid. Applicants submit that the surface cladding on one surface of the six sided applicator pad, which surface is in contact with the support, disclosed by Peek '721 fails to anticipate or render obvious the present invention.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicant submits that claims 1, 2 and 4-7 are in condition for allowance and prompt favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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